

## THE "COLLEGE" CONTROVERSY.

Miss M. S. Rundle, the Secretary of the College of Nursing, replies in last month's *Church League for Women's Suffrage Journal*, to a letter from Miss Beatrice Kent. We regret to note that she supports the autocratic power assumed by the nominated Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., "to remove from the Register the name of any nurse that the Council may in its discretion think proper" without any provision being made for an appeal either to the Council or the Courts by the accused nurses. As this scandalous provision in the Memorandum of the College has not been inserted in the proposed Bye-laws of the Royal British College of Nursing, and provision has been made for an appeal to the Council, though not to the Courts, we think the Secretary of the College would have been wise to point out that part of this intolerable grievance is to be removed. That such a bit of Bochism should have been proposed proves how entirely out of touch the promoters of the College and their officials are with the intense sense of justice which inspires the real registrationists. To prate of democracy and then to take power to hang, draw and quarter the accused without trial is so monstrous that from Potsdam only could such a policy have originated.

Miss Kent has a forcible reply to the Secretary of the College in the March issue of the aforesaid *Journal*, in which she writes, "As a member of the Profession of Nursing, one of the most valuable assets of this and every other country—especially at this time—I consider it a solemn duty to take my part in guarding most jealously its true interests, for we are bound to remember that we are the trustees of the highest profession among women, and what we do now or leave undone, will vitally affect future generations of nurses and the sick public."

A most admirable article on State Registration of Nurses by Miss E. L. C. Eden appears in the March issue of *The Common Cause*, which we think might well be reprinted in leaflet form. It is good to find the "suffrage" papers giving space for discussion of the Nursing Question. It is *au fond* very much the Woman Question.

The *Weekly Irish Times* keeps the ball of publicity rolling. It pleads for the rights, as we do, of the rank and file, publishes Miss H. Hawkins' correspondence with the R.B.N.A. but wastes space in republishing an anonymous letter from the Burdett press, presumably addressed to those who prefer "food for babes," but is not the sort of stuff easily assimilated by the keen Irish appetite for facts. However we welcome publicity,

We agree with several correspondents that it is exceedingly unethical for the Secretary of the College to communicate officially with Professional Nurses through the commercial nursing press, especially as it condones their vituperative attacks upon her professional colleagues.

## A SECRET COMPACT.

## WHAT IS IT?

As we reported last week, the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses Association, by the direction of the Executive Committee, refused to provide Miss H. Hawkins, a Life Member of the Association, with a copy of the letter incorporating a private agreement in connection with the amalgamation of the Association and the College of Nursing, and signed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry.

Miss Hawkins now requests that her correspondence with the College of Nursing on this question may be published, as she is of opinion that to accept such an unconstitutional arrangement, without either inquiry or protest is incompatible with her duty as a member of the Association and of the Nursing Profession.

LETTER FROM MISS H. HAWKINS TO THE HON. ARTHUR STANLEY, M.P., C.B., CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

127, Friern Barnet Road, N.

SIR,—As a Life Member of the Royal British Nurses Association, I beg to enclose you copies of the correspondence which has taken place between myself and the Executive Committee of that Association.

You will see that the Executive Committee refuse to give me the information to which I consider I have a right, as in my opinion no signed agreement should be entered into between the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses Association and the Hon. Officers of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on behalf of the Members, without their knowledge.

Feeling sure that as one of the signatories of the aforesaid document you will agree that secrecy in the matter is extremely undesirable, and relying on your unfailing courtesy, I shall be obliged if you will supply me with a copy of the letter embodying conditions which have not been inserted in the Agreement and the Bye-Laws providing for the Amalgamation of the R.B.N.A., and the College of Nursing, Ltd., signed by you and Sir Cooper Perry to which Mr. Herbert Paterson, Medical Hon. Secretary of the R.B.N.A., alluded at the Special General Meeting of the Association on January 18th.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY, COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., TO MISS H. HAWKINS.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.,  
6, Vere Street, London, W.  
March 1st, 1917.

DEAR MADAM,—Mr. Stanley has handed me your letter, undated, and has directed me to say that it

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)